received in respect of availment of senior citizen concessions by patients travelling to seek medical assistance. However, Indian Airlines has modified this scheme *w.e.f,* 4th April 2005 to delete the condition of purchase of ticket seven days in advance. Since, now there is no time limit for purchase of tickets, the senior citizens will be able to avail the concession even in emergency cases subject to compliance' with other conditions of the scheme.

(c) A total of 204958, 101487 and 85442 senior citizens availed themselves of air travel concession on Indian Airlines Limited during the years 2002-03,2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto February, 2005) respectively. Further, at the time of allowing the concession the passenger is not required to disclose the purpose of travel.

Violation of traffic rights

3417. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain airlines have been found violating the traffic rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to rein in such airlines; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Retirement age of Pilots

3418. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirement age of Pilots was increased recently;

(b) if so, what is the new retirement age; and

(c) what is the international standard of retirement age for pilots including countries like USA, UK, France etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has permitted airline operators to utilize the services of professional pilots upto the age of 61 years (beyond the maximum age limit of 60 years) subject to the conditions that (i) Pilot should have clean medical record *i.e.* no medical limitations on license privileges, (ii) Pilot should undergo fresh Class I medical assessment from IAM Bangalore/AFCME New Delhi every 3 month. Exemption for flying beyond 60 years is granted on case to case basis on the recommendations of the duly constituted Board consisting of Principal Director—Medical Services (Specialist), IAF, as Chairman with Director of Operations (Training & Licensing) and Representative of Chief Flight Operations Inspector as Members.

(c) Retirement age of pilots in USA and France is at 60 years, while it is 65 years in UK.

Abandoned airstrips

3419. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of abandoned/unused airstrips in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plan to repair and use all or some of these airstrips for commercial purposes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The list of abandoned/unused airstrips owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the country, State/Union Territory-wise is as follows: Aizwal in Mizoram; Akola, Hadapsar and Sholapur in Maharashtra; Asansol, Bellurghat, Behala, Cooch Bihar and Maldain West Bengal; Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh; Chakulia in Jharkhand; Cudappah, Donakonda, Nadirgul and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh; Deesa in Gujarat; Hassan and Mysore in Karnataka; Jhansi and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh, Jharsuguda in Orissa; Jodbani, Muzaffarpur and Raxaul in Bihar; Kailashar, Kamalpur and Khowai in Tripura; Panna, Khandwa and Satna in Madhya Pradesh; Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh; Rupsi and Sheila in Assam and Vellore in Tamil Nadu.